

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 14713 221258Z

44

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O R 220949Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7452

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 14713

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ET US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FIVE

REF: STATE 300182; ASMARA 1009

1. WE INFORMED WOOBISHET MARSIE-HAZEN, ACTING DIRECTOR AMERICAN DIVISION, MOFA, THIS MORNING OF KIDNAPPING OF MICHALKE (ASMARA REFTEL). WE AGAIN STRESSED OUR POSITION THAT WE CONSIDER THAT EPMG IS RESPONSIBLE FOR EFFECTING HIS SAFE RETURN ALONG WITH FOUR OTHER AMERICANS DETAINED BY INSURGENTS, WE ASKED THAT EPMG KEEP IN MIND OUR STRONG HOPE THAT HIS SAFETY NOT BE JEOPARDIZED, AND ASKED FOR ANY INFO THEY MIGHT BE ABLE PROVIDE US (WOOBISHET DID NOT KNOW OF THIS KIDNAPPING). FINALLY, WE REQUESTED THAT EPMG PROVIDE INCREASED PROTECTION FOR ALL AMERICANS LIVING IN ASMARA.

2. WOOBISHET TOOK COPIOUS NOTES AND PROMISED INFORM HIS MINISTER. IN SEPARATE CALL, WE ALSO INFORMED CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE AND MADE SAME REQUEST OF HIM.

3. DURING COURSE OF CALL, DCM TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO SUGGEST THAT BROADCAST OF FAMILY MESSAGE BY EPMG AT CHRISTMAS TIME WOULD BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE (STATE REFTEL), AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EPMG WOULD ONCE AGAIN
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 14713 221258Z

RECONSIDER ITS PREVIOUS POSITION ON THIS MATTER. NOTING

THAT EPMG WAS ALREADY IN POSSESSION OF A TEXT, DCM SAID
THAT IF EPMG AGREED TO BROADCAST WE WOULD SLIGHTLY AMEND
TEXT TO REFLECT CHRISTMAS SEASON AND PERHAPS NEWEST ABDUCTION.
(AMB. PLANS MAKE SAME APPEAL TO TEFERI BANTE, BUT WE
DO NOT YET HAVE AN APPOINTMENT AND THEREFORE PREFERRED
MAKE SUGGESTION TO EPMG WITHOUT WAITING.)

4. DCM ALSO TOLD WOOBISHET THAT WE ARE CONSIDERING VOA
BROADCAST PER PARA 2 STATE REFTTEL. IN RESPONSE QUESTION,
DCM ASSURED WOOBISHET THAT WE WOULD CERTAINLY COORDINATE
WITH EPMG BEFORE MESSAGE ACTUALLY BROADCAST, INTER ALIA
PROVIDING EPMG WITH TEXT OF BROADCAST. DCM FURTHER
EXPRESSED STRONG HOPE THAT MESSAGE MIGHT IN FACT BE
COORDINATED WITH IDENTICAL MESSAGE BROADCAST BY EPMG,
BUT CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY IMPLICATION THAT BROADCAST
OF VOA MESSAGE MIGHT DEPEND UPON EPMG WISHES.

5. IN SHORT, RE PARAS ONE AND TWO OF STATE 300182, WE
AGREED WITH DEPT'S SUGGESTIONS.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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